

REMARKS

Applicant's remarks, below, are preceded by quotations of the related comments of the examiner, in small, boldface type.

2. Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smithson et al. [US 5,654,873] in view of Gotzfried et al. [US 6,236,570].

Regarding claims 15-17, Smithson et al. disclose a disk drive assembly including an electromagnetic interference shield (figure 2) comprising:

- a frontal plate (203) having a plurality of openings therethrough;
- a side panel (figure 2) perpendicular to the frontal plate and extending rearwardly thereof; and
- at least one electrically conductive resilient spring finger clip (figure 2) protruding in a lateral direction from the side panel.

Smithson et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the shield being disposed between a latching mechanism and a base of a disk drive carrier.

Gotzfried et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the shield being disposed between a latching mechanism and a base of a disk drive carrier.

Gotzfried et al. disclose a disk drive carrier (1) having a base (figure 1), a latching mechanism (3, 4) and a shield member (2) disposed between the latching member and the base (figure 1).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the shield/latch mounting design of Gotzfried et al. with the disk drive of Smithson et al., for the purpose of facilitating removal of the disk drive from the housing.

Applicant has added new independent claim 27. Smithson and Gotzfried, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest an "electromagnetic interference shield attached to a disk drive carrier . . . wherein the shield is disposed between a first disk drive carrier and a second disk drive carrier." Smithson only discloses an EMI shield 203 disposed between front bezel 202 and media drive 102. (see fig. 2.; col. 4, lines 63-65.) Gotzfried only discloses that "shielding of the front side is accomplished with a front shielding plate 2 that is arranged behind the front of housing 1." (figs. 1-2; col. 2, lines 59-63; col. 3, lines 49-51.) Indeed, the examiner has noted that Smithson and Gotzfried, as prior art of record, "do[] not teach or suggest the shield being disposed between a first and second disk carrier." (Action mailed 3/13/03, p. 5, last full paragraph.) New claims 28-35 are dependent on claim 27 and patentable for at least the same reasons.

4. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smithson et al. in view of Gotzfried et al. and Anderson et al.

Regarding claim 24, Smithson et al. disclose a disk drive assembly including an electromagnetic interference shield (figure 2) comprising:

- a frontal plate (2030 having a plurality of openings therethrough;
- a side panel (figure 2) perpendicular to the frontal plate and extending rearwardly thereof; and
- at least one electrically conductive resilient spring finger clip (figure 2) protruding in a lateral direction from the side panel.

Smithson et al. further disclose the frontal plate having a top and bottom edges, the side panel having top and bottom edges and an upper plate connecting the top edge of the frontal plate to the top edge of the side panel (figure 6a).

Smithson et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the being disposed between a latching mechanism and a base of a disk drive carrier and the electromagnetic interference shield having lower plate connecting the bottom edge of the frontal plate to the bottom edge of the side panel.

Gotzfried et al. disclose a disk drive carrier (1) having a base (figure 1), a latching mechanism (3, 4) and a shield member (20 disposed between the latching member and the base (figure 1).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the shield/latch mounting design of Gotzfried et al. with the disk drive of Smithson et al., for the purpose of facilitating removal of the disk drive from the housing.

Anderson et al. disclose an EMI shielding plate (40) having upper and lower plates extending from the top and bottom edges of a frontal panel (figure 3).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to add the lower plate to the frontal plate of Smithson et al. in view of Gotzfried et al., as suggested by Anderson et al., for the purpose of strengthening the shielding structure.

Applicant has amended claim 24 to include the limitations of claim 25. Claim 24 is patentable for similar reasons as claim 15.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 25 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability. Applicant has amended claim 15 to include the limitations of claim 25. Claims 16-17, 22-23, and 26 are dependent on amended claim 15 and patentable for at least the same reasons.